


HAST SURVIVING VETERANS

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MEN IN FRANKS

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Civil War Men in Ranks

Last Surviving Veterans

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



SHINING EXAMPLE OF GOOD PICTURE

"Did I know Lincoln? Why, say . ." An alert amateur photographer won a \$100 prize in last year's contest with this shot of a grizzled veteran recalling the days of long ago. The third week of the \$10,000 Evening Ledger Amateur Snapshot Contest begins today. Get your share of the fun and 125 cash prizes

Only 19 Survive Of Four Million Civil War Vets

Picture Story on Page 5

By Associated Press

These are the old soldiers of the old war.

Once there were 4,000,000 of them. Last year there were 43. Last March there were 26. Now there are only 19—a shrinking bridgehead in time.

They sit on their porches, smoke their pipes, nod drowsily to reporters who every year around this time come out to the old soldiers' home or cabin up the road for a Memorial Day story.

Dutifully, the old soldiers give their annual advice on longevity.

Patiently, they make the long journey back in memory to Shiloh. Gettysburg, Vicksburg—to the last time Americans fought Americans.

Every year they remember a little less of the Civil War. Every year there are fewer of them to remember. Now, 86 years after Appomattox there are 12 Confederate and seven Union veterans left.

The ranks of the known living Confederate veterans were reduced Friday by the death of John Arthur Marcum at his farm home near Danville, Ark. Marcum, at the age of 11, was drawn into the Confederate Army when a Southern scout picked him up as a guide near Chickamauga, Ga., in September, 1863. A short time later he was sent to Gen. Robert E. Lee's Headquarters Company, given a musket and sent into battle.

The living survivors are:

Confederate

Thomas Evans Riddle, 105, Texas Confederate Home for Men, Austin. Spends time playing dominoes with attendant, listening to war news on the radio or taking a slow walk around the yard, using a cane.

A private in the 12th Tennessee Infantry, Riddle fought under Lee at Gettysburg. Made an honorary Texas colonel 89 years later, along with State's two other surviving Confederate veterans.

"People still argue about Gettysburg," Riddle says. "Some say as many as 2000 were killed. But I know how many were killed. Thirteen, that's all. I was there and we buried every one of them right there in the field."

Walter W. Williams, 108, Franklin, Tex. Blind, almost totally deaf, rarely leaves front porch. Lives with 77-year-old second wife, Ella Mae,

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Only 19 Civil War Veterans Survive

Continued From First Page

on isolated farm quarter mile away from nearest neighbors.

Williams served in Hood's Cavalry Brigade as forage master, or chief of food scrounging department, in Mississippi. Death of first wife left him with seven children, three surviving. Second marriage in 1895 brought him 12 children, nine still alive.

Joseph Haden (Uncle Hade) Whitsett, 103, Bonham, Tex. Blind, almost deaf and bedfast. Up till three years ago enjoyed a noisy, knee-slapping round of checkers.

Served 13 months in Shelby's Escort, Missouri Cavalry, but never fired a shot.

John Salling, 104, Slant, Va. Lives with daughter in mountain cabin. Teeth gone but not sense of humor. Helps tend livestock. Daughter reports:

"Course, he still likes a pretty girl. You ought to see the shines he cuts when he sees one coming up the road. When he gets a spoonful of likker in 'im, he's equal to a Holston preacher. He can preach a sermon then."

Salling never got a Confederate uniform but when the boys in gray came through Scott county, he joined them for a year. His job was digging saltpetre for gunpowder. Never out of State except for 75th Gettysburg anniversary.

William D. Townsend, 105, Okla., La. Walks without cane, smokes battered pipe continuously. Ran away from home at 12, served with Confederates at Vicksburg, where he was slightly wounded. Married his fourth wife 11 years ago. She's only 60 now.

John Greene Chisum, 103, Fort Smith, Ark. Lives with wife in abandoned house at old CCC camp. Joined General Frice's troops bivouacked near Newport, Ark., but memory of war is hazy. Suffered a stroke two years ago.

Reports his outfit still had plenty of fight left when war ended. "My Uncle Tom Chisum," he recalls, "killed three men with a board the day we surrendered."

William W. Loudermilk, 103, Jonesboro, Ark. At 16, he says, he joined Hood's Cavalry as waterboy, was promoted to sharpshooter, fought at Chattanooga, Nashville, Marietta and near Atlanta.

He never has been able to prove his service record, although he covered 1000 miles traveling through South trying.

P. R. Crump, 103, Lincoln, Ala. Lives with grandson. Joined Confederates late in war. Recalls seeing Lee ride away to surrender to Grant at Appomattox in 1863.

Sight and hearing now failing. Has been a deacon of the Refugee Baptist Church for 73 years.

William Joshua Bush, 105, Fitzgerald, Ga. Served with Company B, 14th Georgia Regiment. Bush's wife, many years his junior (they were married when he was 76), teaches at a nearby school. Bush is

all-out Democrat with keen interest in public affairs.

Arnold Murray, 104, Orangeburg, S. C. Lives in cabin with son on farm several miles out of town.

"I volunteered when I was a youngster. They sent me to Sullivan's Island, near Charleston. I was only a trainee and the war ended before I could ever get into the fight."

William A. Lundy, 103, Laurel Hill, Fla. Enlisted at 16 in Coffee county, Ala., Home Guards. He's still active enough to travel to family reunions.

George Washington Keith, 102, Graceville, Fla. Enlisted in home guard company in Florida in 1833. Remembers he wasn't captured or wounded.

Union

James A. Hard, Rochester, N. Y. Oldest of all the Civil War veterans, he'll be 110 on July 15. Physical powers failing but mind still active. Amazed doctors by surviving three attacks of pneumonia at 107.

Still smokes cigars. Took along 20 boxes when he flew to Indianapolis in 1949 for the last national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Hard enlisted four days after Fort Sumter was attacked, served in 37th New York Volunteer Infantry. Voted straight Republican ever since Lincoln.

Douglas T. Story, 106, Los Angeles. At 16, ran away from home three times to join Union Army. "Just had to defend St. Louis from ole Gen. Joe Shelby," he says. His father let the third enlistment stick.

Story fought through war as private, 135th Illinois Infantry. Later, he worked as musician and entertainer aboard Mississippi River show boats, as a clock repairman and in real estate.

William Allen Magee, 104, Van

Nuys, Calif. Joined up as drummer boy at 13, recalls sounding reveille for Sherman's troops on sweep through Georgia. Stayed in Army 34 years. Fought Indians in Dakotas. Retired as master sergeant and has since lived on pension. On longevity: "Never had a drink in my life but I smoke 10 cigars a day."

Joseph Clovese, about 167, Pontiac, Mich. In veterans hospital. Is the only surviving Negro soldier. Uncertain of exact birthdate. Escaped from plantation at St. Bernard Parish, La., to join Union Army during siege of Vicksburg.

After war, worked on Mississippi boats and recalls he helped string one of the first telegraph lines between New Orleans and Biloxi, Miss. Came north in 1948.

Lansing A. Wilcox, 105, King, Wis. Lives at GAR home. Broke rib in fall last year but recovered in time to be on his feet for his birthday last March.

Recalls he served three years as corporal in 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. Wilcox is a past national vice commander of the GAR.

Albert Woolson, 104, Duluth. Native of Watertown, N. Y. Enlisted as drummer boy, Minnesota Artillery in 1864. Recalls serving in Nashville-Atlanta campaigns. A past national senior vice commander of GAR.

Israel Aaron Broadsword, 104, Samuels, Idaho. Still walks without a cane and cuts firewood with a buck saw. A native of Putnam county, O., he joined 51st Missouri Volunteer Infantry at 16 and fought at Lexington, Mo.

Later fought the Sioux, battled grasshoppers and the drought on a Kansas homestead and moved to Idaho in 1929. In 1947 was awarded a service medal for the Civil War—82 years after his discharge.

June Fete at Elkins Estate To Aid Abington Hospital

Horse and dog shows will be the center of attraction at the 38th annual June Fete to be prescuted Saturday under 50,000 square feet of tents at "Justa Farm," the Huntingdon Valley estate of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Elkins.

According to Mrs. John Gribbel, 2d, of Huntingdon Valley, general chairman, the day-long Fete will offer a carnival-like Village Fair, a fashion show and tea and a children's playground. The Fete will close with dancing at night.

ONE OF LARGEST

The Fete, one of the largest one-day charity events in the Philadelphia area, will benefit Abington Memorial Hospital. Last year's Fete realized \$69,578, Mrs. Gribbel said.

The dog and horse shows will

start simultaneously at 10 A. M. The dog show will be sponsored by the Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club and some 750 entries will vie for trophies and ribbons. The Widener and Arthur L. Challenge Trophies will be at stake in the 20 classes of horsemanship.

MAGICIANS, PONY RIDES

Tent-covered booths will line the midway at the Village Fair. Gifts and flowers will be offered for sale and clairvoyants will tell fortunes. Magicians, a carousel, puppet show, calliope and pony rides will provide entertainment for children on the playground.

The tea and fashion show will be presented between 3 P. M. and 5 P. M. Designer fashions will be offered by Gimbels' 5th Avenue Shop.



THOMAS E. RIDDLE
(Confederate)



JOSEPH CLOVESE
(Union)



ISRAEL A. BROADSWORD
(Union)



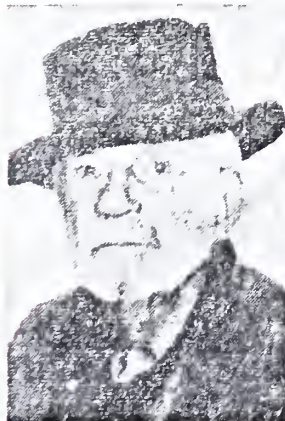
ALBERT WOOLSON
(Union)



LANSING A. WILCOX
(Union)



JOHN SALLING
(Confederate)



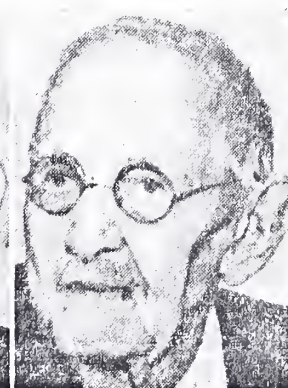
WILLIAM A. LUNDY
(Confederate)



ARNOLD MURRAY
(Confederate)



GEORGE W. KEITH
(Confederate)



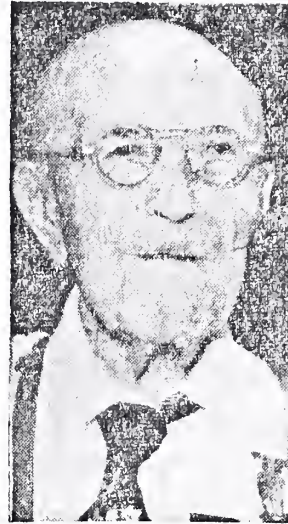
DOUGLAS T. STORY
(Union)

vivors. He died at his farm home near Danville, Ark. The oldest of the remaining 19 is James A. Hard, of Rochester, N.Y., who will be 110 on July 15. Death is making

rapid inroads on these men who fought in the Blue or Grey. Last year there were 43. Last March there were 26. And now the ranks have thinned down to 19.



P. R. CRUMP
(Confederate)



WILLIAM A. MAGEE
(Union)



JAMES A. HARD
(Union)



WILLIAM J. BUSH
(Confederate)



JOHN G. CHISUM
(Confederate)



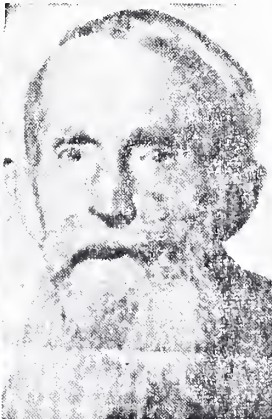
WILLIAM D. TOWNSEND
(Confederate)



WM. L. LOUDERMILK
(Confederate)



JOSEPH H. WHITSETT
(Confederate)



JOHN A. MARCUM
(Confederate)



WALTER W. WILLIAMS
(Confederate)

SURVIVORS

Nineteen old soldiers, all of them past the century mark, are all that remain alive today of the 4,000,000 men who fought in

the historic battles of the Civil War. The thinning ranks were further depleted with the death Friday of John Arthur Marcum, who, at 97, was the "baby" of the sur-

7 Old Men, On Lincoln's Birthday, Recall the War That Ended Slavery

By The Associated Press

Seven Civil War veterans, a few of them "spry" despite their 100-plus years, today proudly showed their colors—five Confederate and two Union Blue—on Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Sole soldier survivals of the War between the States, the aged gentlemen still delight kids and adults alike with their recitals of "I was there" anecdotes about epic battles otherwise consigned to the history books.

The oldest of the dwindling group is 110-year-old Walter L. Williams, who lives near Franklin, Tex. Williams was a forage master with Hood's Brigade. The Confederate veteran resides with his wife and one of his sons on a small farm. Frail but still quite active, Williams collects jewelry as a hobby and yearns to see television.

ALBERT WOOLSON, 106 years old yesterday, joined the Union Army as a drummer boy. He still tells the story of how he became top drummer of his company of the Minnesota Artillery—back in 1864—by "knocking the block off" another drummer.

Woolson lives with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Kobus, in Duluth, Minn. The daughter says her father needs no special diet and rarely is visited by a physician.

Says Woolson: "It would be better for me if I had to work. I sit here too much, I guess."

He's up every morning at 6:30 and shaves himself with a safety razor.

THE ONLY OTHER surviving Union Army veteran is James A. Hard of Rochester. Hard was reported "not feeling well" today.

But 105-year-old William (Uncle Bill) Lundy, Florida's last surviving Confederate veteran, was going out for his usual daily walk on the holiday.

Lundy enjoys "good health, good color, and good eyesight." He resides in Laurel Hill, Fla., and has this to say about present relations between the North and South:

"We have fought side by side, Yankees and Southerners, in war since that time, and the bravery of both has written golden pages of gallantry in our history books . . . I was glad when the (Civil) War ended."

No holiday word was received from Confederate Veteran John Salling, 105, who served with the Virginia Infantry and now resides in Slant, Va.



SHOVELS AT 106—Yesterday was 106th birthday of Albert Woolson, one of last two surviving Union Army veterans. Because it snowed in Duluth, Minn., Woolson was out, shovel in hand, to clean walk in anticipation of birthday calls.



VALENTINE FOR VETERAN—Thomas E. Riddle, also 106, Confederate veteran of Austin, Tex., is "eligible bachelor" late in life. Riddle, who has suit pending against estate of late Samuel Riddle, has received 16 proposals. (AP Wirephotos.)

THOMAS EVANS RIDDLE, 106, put on his Confederate tie for a Lincoln's birthday picture. In the Confederate Home for Men in Austin, Tex., Riddle is deaf and cannot read—but he still plays a lot of dominoes.

Harking back to his Civil War days, Riddle said:

"Five times I thought my life was not worth a minute. Snipers were shooting at me from the tops of trees. I didn't know I was hit."

"But my general says to me, 'Thomas, you're full of bullets.' And I looked, and had been shot five times in my side."

Riddle figured in non-holiday news this week, with reports that

several women had written proposals of marriage since his suit claiming a share in the estate of the late Samuel D. Riddle.

The Confederate veteran claims he is a half-brother of the deceased Riddle.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND, who will be 107 on Apr. 12, was reported in "pretty good" condition by his wife, whom he married 13 years ago. She is the fourth Mrs. Townsend. They live at Olla, La.

The records show that Townsend enlisted in Company B, 27th Louisiana Infantry, on Sept. 8, 1861. He was wounded during the siege of Vicksburg and was captured when the Confederate stronghold fell on July 4, 1863.

Townsend spends most of his time sitting on the porch, and likes to listen to hymn-singing and preaching on the radio.

7 Civil War Veterans Show Colors, With Pride, on Lincoln's Birthday

5 Wear Gray,

2 The Blue

By The Associated Press

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New Yorker Ailing

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"Full of Bullets"

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Townsend still was an "un-reconstructed rebel" in 1938 when he applied for a Confederate pension. At that time he said: "I do not remember whether I took an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Government, but I do not think I did. If I did, it was under duress and while wounded."



JOHN SALLING
Of Slant, Va.; Now 105



WILLIAM TOWNSEND
Of Olla, La.; Nearing 107



ALBERT WOOLSON
Duluth; Ex-Union Drummer
Boy 106



WILLIAM LUNDY
Of Laurel Hill, Fla.; Now 105



WALTER W. WILLIAMS
Franklin, Tex.; Confed. Vet 110



JAMES A. HARD
111, Unwell at Rochester, N. Y.

'With Malice Toward None'



ABOVE—Albert Woolson, 107, last survivor of the Union Army.

LEFT — John Salling, 106, Confederate veteran.

RIGHT—William Allen Lundy, 105, another Confederate veteran, who joined with Woolson and Salling in writing a footnote to the Civil War 89 years after Appomattox—and on the birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

A Tribute to Lincoln's Memory on His Birthday

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J. H. 5/1

Last Boy in Blue Wipes Out Old Hatreds of Civil War

DULUTH, Minn.—(UP)—The hatred and animosities of four years of the Civil War were erased for all time Friday as the last survivor of the Union Army paid his respects to his old adversaries in gray and their lost cause.

Two of the last four living Confederates, in return, sent him hearty congratulations on his 107th birthday.

The Union veteran, Albert Woolson of Duluth, sent greetings to the Southern veterans as he was surrounded by well-wishers on his birthday.

"I wish you could be here to join me," the former drummer boy said. "God bless you."

(In Washington, the sons of Civil War veterans also buried the hatchet. For the first time, the Sons of Confederate Veterans joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, their Yankee counterpart, in laying wreaths at the Lincoln Memorial.

(Gen. Ulysses S. Grant III was there, and so was President Eisenhower who also laid a wreath. Mr. Eisenhower's ancestors fought with the Yankees.)

ONE OF the surviving Confederate veterans, Walter Williams, Franklin, Tex., who is 111, had this to say about the good wishes of the Union man in Duluth:

"It was tough going then and they treated us terrible. But that is all in the past, and I think we should bury the hatchet and not think about it anymore.

Williams said he felt fine.

"If I always feel like I do today I won't never die," he said.

ANOTHER surviving Confederate veteran, 107-year-old Thomas Evans Riddle, was too sick to reply.

But William Allen Lundy, 105, of Laurel Hill, Fla., said, "Sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Yankee Woolson on his 107th birthday.

"I hope he will celebrate

many more. Tell Woolson to take care of himself."

Confederate veteran John Salling, 106, of Slant, Va., said, "I'm looking forward to seeing him again and to shaking his hand once more."

SALLING, bed-ridden with a broken hip suffered last August, said he thought of Woolson when he looked at his picture on his bedroom wall. If they are both still alive, Salling said he hoped the Yankee could visit him in Virginia this spring.

Williams, who lives in a rural area, said recently he was willing to "let bygones be bygones."

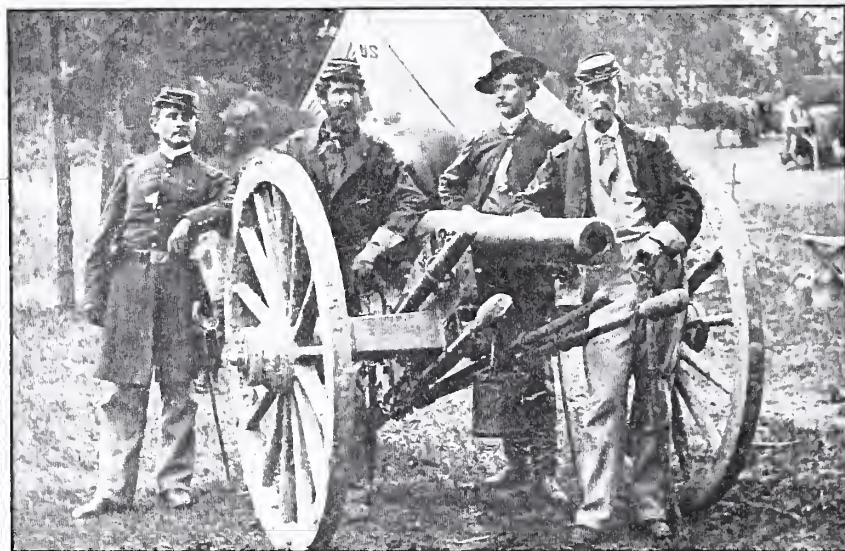
"War," he said, "never seems to settle anything."

Woolson's daughter said her sprightly father never harbored any ill feeling toward his old enemies.

JANUARY 16, 1983

Significa

By Irving Wallace, David Wallechinsky and Amy Wallace



Defenders of the Union, 1865: The Union is still paying 43 widows

Caissons Stop, But Pensions Go Rolling Along

Old soldiers may die, but their dependents don't necessarily fade away. In fact, widows of Civil War veterans are still receiving pension checks from the Veterans Administration.

At this writing, there are 43 Civil War widows, each collecting a monthly benefit of about \$70. The 14 Confederate ladies have received benefits only since 1958, when Congress forgivingly declared them eligible.

The Civil War ended in 1865. Between 1890, when the pension pro-

gram was inaugurated, and 1905, when a cutoff was declared on eligibility, many teenaged girls married aging Union vets to take advantage of the pension. The average age of the 43 surviving widows is 90.

The VA also is still paying out pensions to widows from the Indian wars, the Spanish-American War, and even the Boxer Rebellion and the Philippine Insurrection. In some instances, the costs of these benefits has surpassed the cost of the war in which they were earned.

Betnam Archive

